

# THE MORNING NEWS

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*Weekends are extra special at Paseo Herencia Mall through the end of the year*



ORANJESTAD -- Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall is celebrating the season with live entertainment both Friday and Saturday nights through the holidays, as well as a very special visitor, Santa!

In addition to their regularly scheduled free shows in the Plaza Padu every Monday and Thursday evening, they also now have local Steel Pan groups playing on Friday nights, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Last Saturday, the young folkloric dancers of Curazon Venezolano, "Venezuela Heart," delivered a delightful performance at 8:00 PM, ending with the mall's regularly scheduled "Waltzing Waters." This coming Saturday they will do an even more spectacular program for their end-of-year show.

Paseo Herencia has a number of charming venues, such as Iguana Cantina, for dining and watching the show simultaneously. The mall is festively decorated for the season, and the dozens of shops are offering a wealth of choices for holiday gift giving for every member of the family.

Above all, don't fail to bring the little ones to meet and greet Santa, who is enjoying a bit of rest and relaxation in Aruba before making his rounds on Christmas night.

Continued on pg 5

## Canada let NSA spy on G20, G8 summits

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada allowed America's National Security Agency to spy on G20 talks in Toronto in 2010 and at the G8 summit days earlier, according to documents cited by public broadcaster CBC.

The NSA briefing notes provided by Edward Snowden, the former NSA contractor who is now a fugitive in Russia, reportedly detail a six-day spying operation run out of the US embassy in Ottawa.

The documents say the monitoring -- conducted while American President Barack Obama and 25 other foreign heads of government met on Canadian soil in June 2010 -- was meant to "support US policy goals."

The G20 summit in Toronto focused on how to rouse a global economic recovery and prevent another financial crisis. One proposal included a global tax on banks, an idea strongly op-

posed by both Washington and Ottawa, and which was eventually scratched.

G8 leaders met in Huntsville, 220 kilometers (137 miles) north of Toronto, before the G20 meeting took place.

The documents cited by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation say the US spying operation was "closely coordinated with the Canadian partner," the Communications Security Establishment Canada.

By law, the CSEC cannot target anyone in Canada without a warrant, and is prohibited by international agreement from getting the NSA or others to spy on its behalf in this country.

A CSEC spokeswoman told AFP that the agency "does not target Canadians anywhere or any person in Canada," nor "ask our international partners to act in a way that circumvents Canadian laws."

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## CTO figures places Aruba as Top destination in the Caribbean



ORANJESTAD -- The government had only positive reports for our tourism during a recent press conference. The Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber was very happy to share a continual increase in the different markets.

Tourism for the period of January to October showed a 6.8% increase, which was more than the 3.5% projected by the government and also the 6% projected by ATA (Aruba Tourism Authority).

When comparing this with figures presented by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), Aruba is positioned as the leader of destinations in the Caribbean. This is relative to the number of visitors we receive, the market we promote and obviously, what the product Aruba has to offer.

Aruba even excelled with the number of US visitors, and competing with destinations such as the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica and others

who have experienced a drop in their arrivals from the USA. Aruba is even ahead of exclusive destinations like the Cayman Islands. The strategy used by Aruba together with the ATA is definitely paying off, according to Minister Oduber.

With respect to the European market we are seeing that there was no increase there. We need to work on making our destination much more attractive for that market. But the Latin American market continues to grow. The Venezuelan market is gradually moving ahead, with an increase of 85% shown in the last months.

The more visitors we receive, the more they spend and contribute to our economy. The government is very pleased, overall, with the first 10 months of the year. We have already way surpassed our growth expectations for the year 2013, according to Minister Oduber.

## Government will renew Aruba's airport contract with Schiphol Group

Aeropuerto Internacional  
Reina Beatrix  
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

In co-operation with Schiphol International B.V.

Schiphol  
Group

ORANJESTAD -- Last Wednesday Minister Oduber met with all departments under his watch. One of these was the Aruba Airport Authority (AAA). They discussed the relationship they have with the Schiphol Group.

During his recent business trip to The Netherlands the Minister met with top executives of the Schiphol Group. The conversations were relating to the contract renovation due this year in December.

Wednesday's meeting was with the Board of Commissioners and Management of Aruba's Airport. Not only were the talks related to the contract renovation but also the loan plans for the airport's new financing was discussed. At the moment there is a short term loan for about 50 million florins and after that plans are to create a long term loan for approximately 7, 8 or 10 years.

They also discussed plans up until 2020, to reach a larger passenger capacity at the airport. Today the airport has a capacity for 2.1 million passengers, but they must think about expanding to a capacity of 3 million passengers, which will require an investment. There is currently work in progress for the accommodation of two aircrafts and a new gate to meet the demand for Aruba.

The decision has been made to continue working with the Schiphol Group.

This means that the contract will be renewed.

The airport has seen a significant progress and positive development under the leadership and management of the Schiphol Group. They have demonstrated capability and expertise in the operation and management of the airport.

The Minister indicated that we now have an airport that is progressive with high perspectives for eventual future loans.

The Minister is of the opinion that we must do the necessary studies for the next 10 years so the airport can continue to grow and progress.

### *Holiday Menu*



**Appelizer (Choose one)**  
 Seafood Tempura, Shrimp Cocktail Ahoy,  
 Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce,  
 Fruits of the Seven Seas,  
 Escargot Bourguignon, Mushroom on a Deck,  
 Pirates Treasure Soup

**Apples Menu (Choose one)**

**HOLIDAY PLATTER**  
 Holiday Baked Ham, Roast Turkey served with traditional favorites, cranberry sauce, mashed potato & brown gravy, green beans almondine and herbed stuffing. Let the celebration begin!

**LAND AND SEA DELIGHT**  
 A duo of Chicken Florentine & grilled fresh catch of the day topped with seafood medley

**STEAK LOVERS**  
 Beef Tenderloin with mushroom sauce, stuffed potato and sautéed vegetables

**ALBERTO'S FRESH CATCH**  
 Fish à la Meunière served with wild rice & green beans almondine

**SEAFOOD TRIO**  
 A perfect combination of shrimps scampi, grilled scallops and fried calamari served with wild rice and fresh vegetable

**STUFFED PORKLOIN D'ANGELO**  
 Roasted herb stuffed porkloin served with loaded potato, fresh vegetable and herbed brown gravy

**CHEF SPECIAL**  
 Chicken Piccata with spinach and topped with artichoke sauce, served wild rice and green beans almondine

**Dessert**  
 Home made Holiday Dessert  
 Coffee or Tea

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## Remaining longer in the workforce has its benefits



**Director of SVB Edwin Jacobs**

ORANJESTAD -- When the AOV fund was initiated back in 1960, the objective was to ensure that our seniors received an income so as to avoid poverty among this group. However, the situation from the 60's has changed today.

The gradual shift in the demographics of the labor force is increasing the strain on our AOV system. The government is currently working with all stakeholders to come up with a solution that is socially acceptable and financially feasible.

The AOV system is in trouble, simply because the situation today is so different from in the past, due to changes in the life style and new technologies. According to the director of the SVB, Edwin Jacobs, today's Aruban can remain much longer in the workforce and that this is also beneficial in a certain sense.

When the fund was created in 1960, those receiving pension were 65 years of age and the average age span was 70 years. In 90's the age for pension was reduced to 60 years and the pension was

doubled. Even so there was a reserve, but the situation on Aruba changed. Such as the recession of 2008 which pressed decreased the funds and decisions had to be made to guarantee the fund's future.

The Aruban population is living longer partially due to better life styles. Women joined the labor force, families having children later in life and much smaller families, according to Jacobs.

A combination of these factors were the result of a deficit in 2007 and the reserves had to be used.

2013: If the necessary changes are not introduced quickly, by November 2014 there will be no reserves. At that moment, by law, the government would have to supplement the difference with almost 19 million Florins.

The present facts indicate that the Aruban can continue in the labor force beyond the age of 60, due to a better lifestyle and better medical care to prevent old age diseases. This also brings with it certain benefits. For example bank loans for longer periods and with more beneficial drafts. There are currently a large number of 60 plussers in the workforce, according to Edwin Jacobs, and this group is not known to be on sick leave more than the younger workers.

What the changes will be said Jacobs, must be decided by the political leaders, the unions and other stakeholders. SVB has presented the government different possible scenarios from which they may choose.

## Hospital presents interesting symposium on child abuse



ORANJESTAD -- Last week the Childrens Department at the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital organized their annual symposium with a rather relevant theme. Experts on the care of children met together to dialogue.

Veronica Vermeulen, Childrens Department head indicated that they have noted since last year that the number of cases of child abuse has been increasing. This is why last year, immediately following that symposium they decided that this year the theme has to be child abuse.

They indicated in the symposium that 40% of the children that have been abused come from parents who themselves have been abused in the past. What is essential they said is to find a solution for child abuse and for the prevention of child abuse. Children should not have to live traumatized and with the pain of abuse, according to members of the symposium.

According to Vermeulen, there must be more collaboration where different stakeholders should work together and come up with a plan to prevent child abuse and the care of children.

Dr. Clementien Vermont, Pediatric of the Hospital finds

that there is a lack of a central point in Aruba where these cases can be reported. There must also be more assistance from the justice department.

What we do have in Aruba is a lot of people who want to help and are willing to get involved voluntarily.

During the symposium not only did they discover that there must be more collaboration between stakeholders, but other valuable information was learned as well. For example, the process for improving the situation of child abuse on Aruba. There must

be more information and changes in the law for the protection of the victims and for punishment of the perpetrator. Many times parents knock on the doors of institutions and find that nothing is being done, they get no help.

The plan now is to get a group together who can work on a plan together and present this to the government. They need a plan that would change the mentality and awareness in the community. One that would include more protection for our children and that would avoid them having to live traumatized because of abuse.

The Hospital is dedicated to continue informing and working together for our community and for the best possible care of their patients.

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### Special Plates

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Extra side orders	US\$ 3.00 AFIs. 5.00
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# Happy Hannukah...Hanukkah,... Chanukkah... Channukah, eh, whatever

By Rosalie Klein



ORANJESTAD -- Not unlike rabbinic scholars arguing pilpul (critical analysis and hairsplitting) in their ever-on-going interpretation and re-interpretation of the Talmud, there are many ways to find this annual Jewish Festival of Lights is spelled. Take your pick, you will find any of them being used to name the holiday which began on Wednesday evening. 2013 marks the rare occasion when the actual first day of Hanukkah, Channukah, (shall we keep covering all the bases?) coincides with the popular American holiday of Thanksgiving-now dubbed by some "Thanksgivukkah." The last time that happened was around 125 years ago. Since the first two evenings of the Jewish holiday are consid-

ered feast days, this will certainly make life easier for Jewish-American mamas, as kitchen chores can kill two birds. The holiday moves around on the Gregorian calendar because the first day falls on the 25th day of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar, while Thanksgiving waits for the last Thursday of November 2013 marks one of the earliest date on which Hannukah has ever fallen. (Microsoft Word likes Hanukkah, but we feel we should give them all equal time.)

One of the happier Jewish holidays, it will last for eight days and nights. Each night Jewish families will light candles in the Hannukeah (Chanukkeah?) a special menorah differing from that used on the Sabbath, which holds seven candles. The Hannukeah holds nine candles, and the first night requires two be lit. Each day after, an additional candle is lit until finally, on the last night, the menorah is filled. This commemorates the miracle in the Temple of Jerusalem, when the Macabees reclaimed it from the Greeks.

The story of Chanukkah begins in strife (as does nearly every story of a Jewish holiday. A commonly held description of most could be "We survived, now let's eat.")

Antiochus, a Greek who was king of Syria, marched with an army of soldiers into the kingdom of Judea. He insisted that the Jews worship the Greek gods rather than their one. When they refused, the soldiers attacked the Temple in Jerusalem, killing countless Jews.

The Temple of Jerusalem was looted of holy objects made of precious metals and jewels. The Greeks broke the sacred menorah, which stood in front of the holy ark holding the Torah, the sacred scrolls upon which the Pentateuch, or Old Testament, is written and copied.

The lamp's flame, which always burned brightly, went out. This "Ner Tamid," the "Eternal Light" represents the spirit of God that accompanies Jews when they pray, and should never be extinguished. The shamash is a special person working in the Temple whose only duty was to keep that flame alive. Specially made pure olive oil was the only kind that could be used. The soldiers dumped the oil all over the floor. As a last insult, they let pigs roam in the Temple, as pork is forbidden to those who observe the Jewish dietary laws.

The king forbid the Jews from worshipping their one God and said all Jewish men must shave their beards (a prohibition in the Torah) and wear the immodest clothing of the Greeks. One old man, Matisyahu, wanted to fight to take back the Temple. He went with his five sons into the wilderness, where other families joined them.

The men began to fight the enemy anywhere and in any way they could. History's first resistance guerilla fighters. Eventually, Matisyahu became sick, and he named one of his sons, Judah the



**Alexander the Great in the Second Temple by Sebastian Conca**

Maccabee, as the leader of the fighting band.

For two years the Jews fought their enemy. The Greeks had war elephants, and one of Judah's brothers, Eliahu, was crushed in a battle. Finally they recaptured Jerusalem, freeing their fellow Jews. This is one of the miracles of Hanukkah.

One of the first tasks was to cleanse and re-dedicate the Temple. They restored the holy menorah, but found only enough pure olive oil (the only kind they could use with such a sacred instrument) to last one day. It would take eight days to make more. Yet, lo and behold, the flames of the menorah did not die out as was expected, despite the small amount of oil on hand. The flame burned steadily for

all eight days. With each passing day, the flames grew brighter.

Thus began the tradition of the eight days of Chanukkah. Candles are lit at sundown for eight nights in a row. The extra candle is the shamash, or servant light, which is used to light the other eight candles.

The traditional treats of the holiday are most importantly latkes, or potato pancakes, fried in oil to remember the miracle of the oil in the Temple, and served with applesauce or sour cream. Another very popular item, particularly in Israel, is sufganiyot, or jelly-filled doughnuts, a reminder of how sweet it is to practice one's faith unhindered and without persecution.



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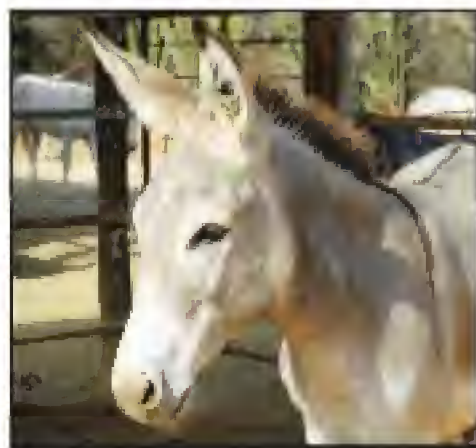
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## Maestro is on the lookout for friends and family members



ORANJESTAD -- Maestro is one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. He was brought in together with his mother Bunny, sometime early in 2013. Shortly afterwards he got a baby brother. Unfortunately, his mother is very strict and he is not allowed to be in the vicinity of the baby donkey. That is understandable, as Amadeus is not pleased at all to play second violin. That is why his mother is keeping him away, for a jealous donkey may be very dangerous to a young animal.

Maestro is a lovely, quiet donkey with a blaze on his forehead.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is

called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30.-- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubadonkey.org](http://www.arubadonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please.



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## Weekends are extra special at Paseo Herencia Mall...

Continued from pg 1



All the toys are done, and he has given his elves and reindeer a little down time while he enjoys a tropical vacation before the big night. He ap-

preciates how hard they have all worked. However, he confided to Paseo Herencia executive staff he is unable to stay away from their festive holi-

day ambiance, and has agreed to stop by every Saturday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 PM to chat with island children and pose for photo-



graphs. He asks that all bring their young ones by for a visit.

Don't miss a lovely evening of dining and enter-

tainment this weekend while doing your holiday shopping at Paseo Herencia in Palm Beach.

By Rosalie Klein



## Coca trade in spotlight as Colombia peace talks resume

HAVANA (AFP) - The Colombian government and leftist FARC rebels resumed peace talks Thursday amid differences over coca cultivation, blamed by political leaders for drug-linked violence and killings.

As the negotiations got under way in Cuba after a three week break, the delegation chief for the guerrillas questioned the eradication of a plant he said has benefits for mankind.

"If we agree that coca and cocaine are not the same thing, it seems illogical that to put an end to drug trafficking we

should eradicate a plant that can be beneficial to humanity," Ivan Marquez said.

"The coca leaf has been used for centuries to relieve hunger, thirst and fatigue, as a digestive aid and relaxant, and it has been proven by science to have nutritional and medicinal properties," he added.

Marquez is the second in command at the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which has been in talks with the government for more than a year, aiming to end their near 50-year conflict.

Considered Latin America's longest-running insurgency, it

has left hundreds of thousands of dead and displaced more than 4.5 million people.

"Cocaine has become a harmful narcotic that poses serious problems for public health on a global level," Marquez said, adding that drug trafficking was "not an exclusively Colombian, but an international problem."

Cracking down on drug trafficking should "not come on the backs of the weakest elements, consumers and farmers, while the main beneficiaries are the financial empires around the world," he said.

The Colombian government delegation maintained its policy of declining to comment at the start of a new round of talks. However, its chief said Wednesday that he foresaw a coca-free future for Colombia.

"We want agriculture without coca, we want our farmers to permanently abandon this cultivation that has brought nothing but violence, poverty and marginality," former vice president Humberto de la Calle said before leaving for the Cuban capital, Havana.

Drug trafficking is the third of five agenda points for the peace talks.

Two partial agreements were reached in May and November on two of the points -- rural development and the political participation of the rebels after a potential peace deal.

The FARC, Colombia's largest rebel group, has around 7,000 to 8,000 fighters.

### Obama calls Saudi king after Iran deal

RIYADH (AFP) - US President Barack Obama called Saudi king Abdullah late Wednesday to discuss latest developments in the Middle East, a report said, days after world powers struck a nuclear deal with Iran.

The landmark accord, which would curb parts of Iran's nuclear programme in return for some relief from international sanctions, has received only a cautious welcome from Riyadh, which fears Tehran's regional ambitions.

Obama and the monarch discussed "bilateral links between the two friendly countries, developments in the region, and issues of mutual interest," state news agency SPA said.

Saudi-US ties have become strained over Riyadh's unhappiness with Washington's policies on Syria and Iran. Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia has been locked in a decades-long rivalry with Shiite-dominated Iran.

In reacting to Sunday's accord, the Saudi government said it could mark the first step towards a comprehensive solution for Iran's nuclear programme, "if there are good intentions".

## 80 people injured in Hong Kong high-speed ferry accident

HONG KONG (AFP) - Eighty people were injured early Friday when a high-speed ferry travelling from Hong Kong to Macau hit an "unidentified object" in the water, according to Hong Kong's marine department.

"Information received from the Marine Department suggested that 80 people on the ferry were injured. Among them four were classified as seriously injured," a spokesman for the Hong Kong government told AFP.

It comes just a month after Hong Kong marked the one year anniversary of a sea collision which claimed 39 lives, the city's worst maritime disaster for over 40 years.

Friday's accident happened at around 1:20 am (1720 GMT) near one of Hong

Kong's small outlying islands Hei Ling Chau, the spokesman said.

There were 105 passengers and 10 crew members aboard, with no reports that anybody was missing, he added.

"There was suddenly a loud bang. The ferry was thrown upwards. Then many passengers were thrown out from their seats," one passenger, named as Mr Wong, was quoted as saying by Hong Kong's Apple Daily news website.

After the accident the ferry sailed back to Hong Kong Island's downtown Sheung Wan terminal where a dozen of ambulances were waiting to tend to the injured, he said.

RTHK news website showed a passenger on a stretcher surrounded by emer-

gency staff. A government spokesman said there were no further details on passengers' injuries.

Local television footage appeared to show the ferry being towed back to the terminal.

"We only know that it sailed back but how it did so we are not sure," a government spokesman said.

The safety of Hong Kong's waters was called into question after the fatal October 1, 2012 crash which saw the Lanma IV launch -- carrying more than 120 people -- collide with the high-speed Sea Smooth ferry near Lamma Island.

The launch was carrying employees of the Hong Kong Electric utility and their family members and friends to watch a fireworks display to celebrate China's national day.



### Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

### Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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## Brazil confirms satellite deal after US spying outcry

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Brazil's state-owned telecom provider Telebras signed a \$560 million contract to deliver a satellite for secure communications on Thursday, following months of outrage over revelations of US cyber-spying.

A statement said a joint venture between Telebras and Embraer would deliver the geostationary satellite for strategic communications by late 2016.

Embraer said the satellite would ensure Brazil's "sovereignty over strategic communications in both the civilian and military areas."

Brasilia has been angered by reports of US electronic spying on Brazilian government communications, as well as phone call data and emails of millions of Brazilians.

Those disclosures, drawn from revelations by US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden, led Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff to reprimand the United States at the UN General Assembly session in September and to scrap a planned state visit to Washington.

Visiona Tecnologia Espacial, a joint venture between Embraer and Telebras, will be responsible for integrating the Defense and Strategic Communications Geostationary Satellite (SGDC) system, Embraer said.

"The SGDC system not only will meet the needs of Telebras' National Broadband Program (PNBL) and the

strategic communications of the Brazilian Armed Forces, but it is also an opportunity for Brazil to ensure the sovereignty of its strategic communications in both the civilian and military areas," said Telebras President Caio Bonilha.

The SGDC system involves the ministries of communications, defense and science and Technology, an Embraer statement said.

It said the satellite would be operated by Telebras on the civilian band and by the defense ministry on the military band.

French-Italian firm Thales Alenia Space (TAS) is to supply the satellite while European satellite launch company Arianespace is to launch it.

The suppliers are to transfer technology to Brazilian companies, a process that will be supervised by the Brazilian National Space Agency, Embraer said.

It stressed that the SGDC system will provide full security for the government's strategic communications and military communications as it "will be controlled in Brazil at stations that are located in military areas, under the coordination of Telebras and the defense ministry."

"Satellites that currently provide services to Brazil are either controlled by stations outside of the country or the control is in the hands of companies run by foreign capital," Embraer said.

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## Hernandez declared winner of disputed Honduras vote



TEGUCIGALPA (AFP) - The ruling conservative party's candidate in Honduras' presidential election has won, the electoral tribunal said, but he stopped short of making it official.

The leftist rival's camp insisted there was fraud and called street protests.

The apparent winner, Juan Orlando Hernandez, is a law-and-order conservative who has promised a militarized program to improve public safety in the nation with the world's highest murder rate, which is also among the poorest in Latin America.

Gangs run whole neighborhoods, extorting businesses as large as factories and as small as tortilla stands. Drug cartels use Honduras as a transfer point for shipping illegal drugs, especially cocaine, from South America to the United States.

The tribunal said the numbers indicate Hernandez won last weekend's election over leftist Xiomara Castro of the leftist Libre party.

Figures from 81.5 percent of polling stations give Hernandez 35.88 percent to Xiomara Castro's 29.14 percent.

But Castro's campaign accuses the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of manipulating 19 percent of the votes to favor Hernandez and plans to call massive street protests over the alleged fraud.

European Union and Organization of American States observers called the voting process transparent and non-problematic.

The governments of Colombia, Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica congratulated Hernandez. Nicaragua's leftist President Daniel Ortega also recognized Hernandez as the winner.

The election's winner will inherit a country of 8.5 million people with 71 percent of the

population living in poverty and a soaring homicide rate of 20 murders per day.

Zelaya was elected Honduran president as a PL candidate in 2005.

But when he moved to the political left and tried to reform the constitution, the military abruptly deposed him with support from Congress and the Supreme Court.

## Briton searches landfill for \$7.5 mn bitcoin fortune

LONDON (AFP) - A British IT worker has launched a frantic search of a landfill site after realising he accidentally threw away a computer drive holding \$7.5 million (\$5.5 million euros) in the online currency bitcoin.

James Howells, 28, obtained 7,500 bitcoins in 2009 when the currency was virtually worthless. Its value has since soared, with a single bitcoin hitting \$1,000 for the first time on Tuesday.

Howells left the hard drive in a drawer for several years, and threw it away earlier this year without a second thought.

To his horror, he then realised what it had contained -- and that he would be a millionaire, if he could only find it.



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He now faces the prospect of a painstaking hunt through a massive landfill site in his home city of Newport, Wales, he told BBC television on Thursday.

"When I went to the tip the manager took me up to the current landfill site and when I saw it -- it's about the size of a football field -- my first thought was 'no chance'," he said.

"The manager explained that things that were sent to landfill three or four months ago could be three to five feet (1.5 metres) deep.

"He confirmed my worst fears when he said that."

Large-scale searches of the landfill site -- including those for police evidence -- usually

involve up to 20 workers with digging equipment and dogs, he added.

He told the BBC he forgot about the bitcoin stash because he was "distracted by family life and moving house".

The hard drive was thrown out between mid-June and August, he believes.

He has checked all of his back-up files without success.

Launched in 2009 as the invention of a mysterious computer guru who goes by the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto, bitcoins can be exchanged online for real money or used to buy goods and services on the Internet.

The currency is not regulated by any government.

## Dominican Republic recalls ambassador in migration spat with Haiti

SANTO DOMINGO (AFP) - The Dominican Republic has recalled its ambassador to Haiti for consultations and suspended a bilateral dialogue in a dispute over its stripping citizenship rights of Dominicans of Haitian descent, the foreign ministry said.

A regional body called Caricom, or the Caribbean Community, suspended the Dominican Republic's application to join it earlier this week, and Haiti voted in favor of that decision.

In late September, the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic stripped citizenship from more than 250,000 Dominican-born offspring of undocumented Haitians. This leaves them in effect country-less.

Caricom said it was acting until the Dominican Republic took measures to resolve the conflict with Haiti.

A bilateral dialogue over the dispute is now suspended, the statement added. A meeting mediated by Venezuela had been planned for this coming Saturday.

**BORAZJAN (AFP) :** A picture obtained from Iran's ISNA news agency shows Iranians gathering amid rubble in the Iranian western city of Borazjan yesterday after a 5.7 magnitude earthquake struck the country. The quake's epicentre was near Borazjan, around 60 kilometres (35 miles) from Bushehr, where Iran has its Russian-built reactor. The 5.7 magnitude earthquake on the Gulf coast near Iran's sole nuclear power plant killed seven people and injured 30 on Thursday, emergency response chief Hassan Qadami told state media. Iran stands on several seismic fault lines. A massive quake in December 2003 struck the southern city of Bam, killing 26,000 people and destroying its ancient mud-built citadel.





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## New, aggressive HIV strain causes AIDS faster

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - A new and more aggressive strain of HIV discovered in West Africa causes significantly faster progression to AIDS, researchers at Sweden's Lund University said Thursday.

The new strain of the virus that causes AIDS, called A3/02, is a fusion of the two most common HIV strains in Guinea-Bissau. It has so far only been found in West Africa.

"Individuals who are infected with the new recombinant form develop AIDS within five years, and that's about two to two-and-a-half years faster than one of the parent (strains)," said Angelica Palm, one of the scientists responsible for the study based on a long-term follow-up of HIV-positive people in Guinea-Bissau.

Recombinant virus strains originate when a person is infected by two different strains, whose DNA fuse to create a new form.

"There have been some studies that indicate that whenever there is a so-called recombinant, it seems to be more competent or aggressive than the parental strains," said Palm of the study published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

The strain was first discovered by the Swedish team in Guinea-Bissau in 2011.

According to researchers, the speed with which A3/02 leads to people falling ill from AIDS does not impact on the effectiveness of medication on infected individuals.

"The good news is that as far as we know the medicines that are available today are equally functional on all different subtypes of variants," Palm said.

The study warns that such recombinants may be spreading fast, especially in regions



with high levels of immigration, such as Europe or the United States.

"It is highly likely that there are a large number of circulat-

ing recombinants of which we know little or nothing," said Patrik Medstrand, professor of clinical virology at Lund University.

Some 35.3 million people around the world are living with HIV, which destroys the immune system and has caused more than 25 million deaths since AIDS first emerged in the early 1980s, according to the World Health Organisation.

Existing treatments help infected people live longer, healthier lives by delaying and subduing symptoms, but do not cure AIDS. Many people in poor communities do not have access to the life-giving drugs, and there is no vaccine.

## Amish Girl With Leukemia, Family Flees US to Avoid Chemotherapy



CHICAGO - A 10-year-old Amish girl with leukemia and her parents have left the country to seek alternatives to chemotherapy, according to the family's attorney. Sarah Hershberger and her parents oppose chemotherapy, and have been fighting the Akron Children's Hospital in court after the family stopped Sarah's treatment. Her parents said the treatments have caused their daughter a great deal of pain, and they'd rather focus on herbal and natural remedies. Ohio Hospital Can Force Chemo on Amish Girl, Court Says. Hospital officials declined to comment on Sarah's case or whether they would seek further legal action. Law enforcement officials said at this point there was no formal search for the girl.

## Qatar reports three camel MERS infections



DOHA (AFP) - Qatar said on Thursday that three camels have been found infected with the MERS coronavirus, in the first case of animals contracting the SARS-like virus in the Gulf state.

The camels were found in the same barn, and had been in contact with two humans who fully recovered from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, said the country's Supreme Council of Health.

It was the second reported case of animals infected with MERS after Saudi Arabia announced a camel had tested positive for the virus this month.

The World Health Organisation says it has been informed of 160 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection worldwide since September last year, including 68 deaths.

Saudi Arabia is the worst affected country, accounting for 55 deaths.

Experts are struggling to understand the MERS virus, for which there is no vaccine.

It is considered a deadlier but less-transmissible cousin of the SARS virus that erupted in Asia in 2003 and infected 8,273 people, nine percent of whom died.

In August, researchers pointed to Arabian camels as possible hosts of the virus, which has hit hardest in the desert kingdom.

Like SARS, MERS appears to cause a lung infection, with patients suffering from a temperature, cough and breathing difficulty.

But it differs in that it also causes rapid kidney failure and the extremely high death rate has caused serious concern.

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## Justin Bieber in Australia graffiti row



SYDNEY (AFP) - Teen heartthrob Justin Bieber was Thursday told to clean up his mess after the pop star was accused of spraying graffiti on an Australian hotel wall.

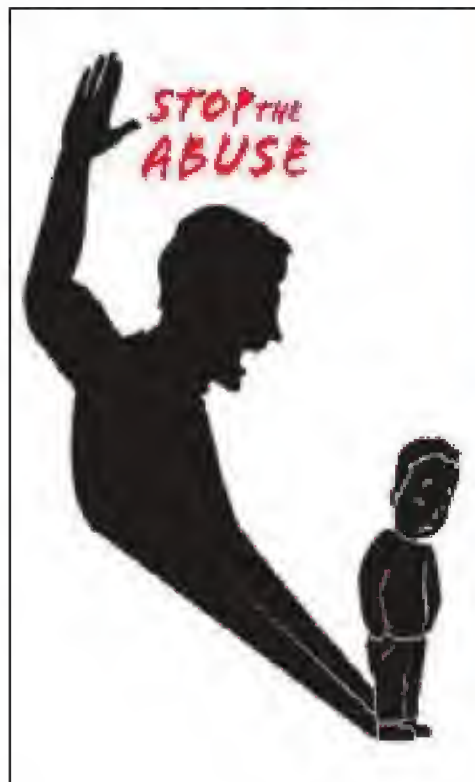
Furious Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate said the Canadian had been disrespectful and "really, really silly", and sent a graffiti removal kit to the exclusive QT Hotel at Surfers Paradise so he could repair the damage.

Bieber's handiwork includes a Pacman ghost and other fluorescent cartoon characters, reportedly painted in the early hours of Wednesday after the star's sell-out Brisbane show.

Pictures of the graffiti were posted online, including on Instagram, with reports saying Bieber and his entourage left the cans of spray paint behind for staff to clean up.

Comments on the Instagram page were largely negative, with one saying: "Celebrities should not be above the law. He needs to grow up."

It is the second recent ruckus involving the singer and graffiti, with police in Rio de Janeiro investigating him earlier this month for alleged unauthorised wall tagging.



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## Thanksgiving Day Celebration



NEW YORK - (AFP) A view of the Sprout Network float during the Sprout and friends at the 24-hour preschool network's Thanksgiving Day Parade Party at Warwick Hotel.



NEW YORK - (AFP) The Enchanting World of Lindt Chocolate Float featuring the Goo Goo Dolls in the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



Atmosphere at the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



NEW YORK (AFP) -The 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade yesterday.





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## Google breaches Dutch privacy laws: watchdog



THE HAGUE (AFP) - US Internet giant Google is in breach of Dutch privacy laws and will have to change the way it operates, the Dutch privacy watchdog said on Thursday following a seven-month probe.

"Google's combined use of personal details since revising its privacy policy in 2012 is in breach of the Law on the Protection of Personal Information," the Dutch Data Protection Authority (CBP) said in a statement.

"Google links personal details of Internet users gleaned

through different Google services without informing users and without asking their permission," said the Hague-based CBP, which advises government on privacy legislation.

It invited Google to attend a meeting to discuss its concerns.

The CBP released a 100-page report on Thursday after a seven-month investigation, saying that Google's use of "tracking cookies" without clearly informing users -- or giving them a option to refuse -- was breaking the Dutch data

protection act.

"Everything you do on the Internet allows Google to compile a personal profile by placing cookies... and without permission you are not allowed to do that," CBP chairman Jacob Kohnstamm told the NOS public broadcaster.

"You have to ask users (before using cookies) -- that's what the law says and that's what we say as well," he added.

Google is being investigated by privacy authorities in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain, the CBP added.

Failing to heed advice on privacy laws in various countries could result in fines, Kohnstamm warned.

A Google official told NOS its privacy policy did respect European legislation, adding the company would remain in talks with the CBP to solve the issue.

## Brazil auctions shale, natural gas blocks

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazil awarded 72 onshore natural gas and shale gas exploration blocks Thursday in a controversial auction marked by complaints from environmentalists about a lack of regulation.

The National Petroleum Agency, or ANP, said in a statement that the auction generated \$72 million in revenue, awarding 72 of the 240 concessions on offer.

Forty-nine blocks were snatched by state-run oil giant

Petrobras either alone or as part of a consortium.

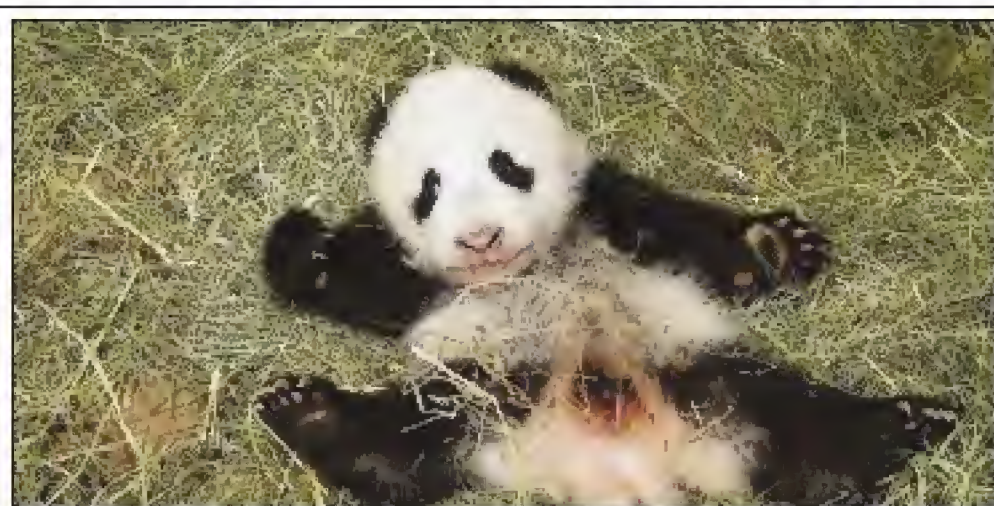
An ANP spokeswoman said four of the 11 foreign companies that took part in the auction were awarded blocks: France's GDF Suez, Colombia's Petrominerales, Panama's Trayectoria Oil & Gas and GeoPark from Bermudas.

ANP head Magda Chambriard stressed that the licensing round aimed to "sow the culture" of natural gas drilling in Brazil.

Blocks on offer covered 168,348 square kilometers (65,000 square miles) in the states of Amazonas, Acre, Alagoas, Bahia, Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Parana, Piaui, Sao Paulo, Sergipe and Tocantins.

The sale, initially planned for two days, marked the third round of energy auctions this year in Brazil, which in 2007 discovered huge so-called pre-salt oil reserves deep below the Atlantic Ocean, bedrock and hot salt beds.

VIENNA (AFP) - Vienna's new baby panda will be named Fu Bao, or Happy Leopard in Mandarin, the city's Schoenbrunn Zoo announced on Thursday, three months after he was born. The tiny furball caused a sensation when he was born on August 14, giving the zoo its third panda birth in six years. Schoenbrunn is the only zoo in Europe where pandas -- notoriously picky partners -- have reproduced naturally, without artificial insemination. Mother Yang Yang and father Long Hui had a first cub in 2007, later named Fu Long, or Happy Dragon in Chinese. His brother Fu Hu -- Happy Tiger -- followed exactly three years later on August 23, 2010. Both cubs have been returned to China, which only lends pandas to foreign zoos and claims ownership of any cubs born abroad.



## Comet Ison destroyed in Sun passage



LONDON - Telescopes saw the giant ball of ice and dust disappear behind the star, but only a dull streamer emerge.

Astronomers continued to search for the object, but it eventually became clear that the much vaunted "Comet of the Century" had gone out with a whimper.

Despite its great size, Ison was probably torn apart in the immense heat and tidal forces so close to the Sun.

The European Space Agency's experts on the Soho Sun-watching satellite called the death of the comet at about 21:30 GMT.

Ison had captivated sky-watchers with its promise ever since it was discovered by Vitali Nevski and Artyom Novichonok in 2012.

A "fresh", 2km-wide object flung in towards the inner Solar System from its home far beyond the outer planet Neptune, it was hoped it might produce a brilliant tail that would arc across the night sky,

perhaps for weeks.

And, as it got closer and closer to the Sun, its ices did indeed begin to vaporise, releasing dust that shimmered in a distinctive trailing stream.

But from early on, it was clear Ison was unlikely to be spectacular; it was just not brightening in the way experienced comet watchers had anticipated.

This led scientists to fear for its survival when it eventually grazed past the star at a distance of just 1.2 million km at 18:35 GMT on Thursday.

Passing close to the Sun, Ison would have been subjected to temperatures over 2,000C. And the immense gravity of the star would also have pulled and squeezed on the object as it tumbled end over end.

All the evidence suggests Ison's nucleus was torn apart in the close pass, in the same way that Comet Lovejoy - a previous hopeful in 2011 - was disrupted.



RUSSIAN FEDERATION, STAR CITY (AFP) : An operator demonstrates SAR-401 advanced anthropomorphic robot at the Gagarin Cosmonauts' Training Centre in Star City centre outside Moscow, on Wednesday. Russia is working on its own version of NASA's Robonaut with a machine called SAR-400 that's due to reach the International Space Station by 2014.





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## Dutch shrimp firm and EU market leader fined €27m for cartel forming

THE HAGUE - Three Dutch and one German shrimp processing firms have been fined a total €28.7m for cartel forming, with the biggest fine - €27m - going to Heiploeg.

The European Commission investigation found the companies had for years fixed the prices of North Sea shrimps, leading to too-high prices for consumers.

In a statement, competition commissioner Joaquín Almunia said: 'It is astonishing to see in what kind of detail North Sea shrimp traders in

their frequent contacts with each other discussed commercially sensitive information concerning their business.

'And it is even more astonishing taking into account the sector had already received a clear warning via the previous conviction of some traders by the Dutch competition authority.'

Between them, the four firms controlled some 80% of the European North Sea shrimp market. Heiploeg, based in the small town of Zoutkamp in Groningen, is European market leader.

## Employers worried about new sick pay rules for flexible workers

THE HAGUE - Employers are extremely worried about new laws on sick pay aimed at giving more rights to people on flexible contracts, says staffing agency association ABU.

Companies which employ large numbers of people on flexible contracts are worried they will be saddled with large bills if their temporary staff become ill.

While companies which employ staff through an agency will not have to foot the bill, employers who employ temporary staff directly, or have staff on zero hour contracts, may be liable, ABU says.

The new legislation, which

will be back-dated to January 2012, will require employers to pay temporary staff sick pay for two years, followed by a maximum eight years in further benefits.

Employers' organisations had campaigned hard against the new rules. ABU says employers will now be less likely to take on older temporary staff or people with a poor health record.

## WTO says 'breakthrough' in trade talks with customs accord

GENEVA (AFP) - The World Trade Organisation said Thursday that negotiators have made a breakthrough in talks towards a major trade deal, just two days after the agency's chief signaled a stalemate.

Diplomats in Geneva have secured agreement on a key sticking point of a trade package to be put to ministers at a crunch summit next week: trade facilitation, which involves simplifying customs procedures to make commerce smoother.

It is one of the elements making up an overall trade package to be examined during the December 3-6 ministerial meeting at the Indonesian island of Bali.

But the WTO's 159 member states had until now been unable to bridge their differences on the subject, including over the delay developing countries

would get to fall in line, and the support they would get from donors to do so.

On Thursday however, the WTO said there had been a "breakthrough on a key section of the Bali package", with the world's poorest countries to be given extra flexibility to implement the new rules under discussion.

"Because of this progress we will arrive in Bali with better momentum and a positive spirit," WTO chief Roberto Azevedo said in the statement.

The Bali meeting is seen as perhaps the last chance to revive the WTO's "Doha Round" of talks for a global trade liberalisation deal, estimated by Azevedo to be worth a trillion dollars.

Launched in 2001 at a summit in Qatar, the talks have foundered over deep-set disagreements between develop-

ing countries and developed countries on tariff and subsidies cuts.

Negotiators had long ruled out the chances of making any major progress in the Doha Round during the upcoming Bali meeting.

They have instead extracted parts of the Doha package, in the hopes that agreement on these smaller portions could then lend momentum for the wider Doha deal to be reached.

The package to be presented at Bali is made up of these extracted texts.

WTO rules require deals to be unanimous, and the Doha impasse has led many members to shift focus to negotiating deals such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership or a US-EU accord.

But such regional deals tend to involve richer countries, sidelining the poorest nations.

## Brazil mining giant Vale to pay govt 7.1 bn euros in tax amnesty

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian mining giant Vale said late Wednesday it had accepted a tax amnesty offer from the government that will see it pay the state the equivalent of 7.1 billion euros.

The world's largest miner of iron ore said in a statement that the payout will affect its 2013 net earnings to the tune of 6.6 billion euros.

The government had said the company owed twice as much in taxes, interest and penalties.

The accord covers the period running from 2003 to 2012.

Vale will make the payout in phases.

Its managing director Munilo Ferreira said the company will be able to pay just from its regular cash flow, without going into additional debt, and shareholders will get a dividend as scheduled.

## No deal 'so far' with Ukraine at EU summit: Lithuania

VILNIUS (AFP) - European Union leaders failed to convince Ukraine to sign a landmark political and trade deal on the first day of a two-day EU summit, Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė told AFP Thursday.

She said that at talks with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, EU "arguments did not reach Ukraine president's ear and mind. So far we see that positions have not changed."

The Ukrainian leader is due to meet both German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande before the two-day summit winds up today.

It seemed that there was confusion between the benefits of EU free trade agreement and concrete economic situation that is currently in Ukraine.

## World's oldest bank to be 'profoundly different' by 2017

MILAN (AFP) - The board of troubled Italian lender Monte dei Paschi di Siena -- the world's oldest bank -- Thursday approved a restructuring plan which it said will create a "profoundly different" bank by 2017.

The plan, which includes significant job and branch cuts and the sale of small subsidiaries, had been given the green light on Wednesday by the European Commission.

The scheme envisages a drop in the number of branches from 2,750 in 2012 to 2,200 by 2017 and the number of employees is expected to be cut from 31,000 at the end of 2011 to 23,000 by the end of the period.

The lender also hopes to boost its internet use, increasing the number of web customers from a current 1.0 percent to 10 percent, it said in a statement.

The bank said it aimed to cut costs by 713 million euros (\$969 million) from 2012, and is aiming for a net profit of 900 million euros in 2017.

It confirmed borrowed funds would be repaid to the European Central Bank by the deadline in 2015.



NEW YORK - Bitcoins, which exist as software and aren't regulated by any country or banking authority, surged to a record \$1,073 today, up more than 80-fold from a year earlier. The currency has rallied on growing interest from investors in China and the U.S., while merchants are starting to accept Bitcoins for everything from Gummi bears to tuition fees. The virtual currency gained credibility this month after law enforcement and securities agencies said in U.S. Senate hearings that Bitcoin could be a legitimate means of exchange.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

R	I	F	T		P	A	S	T	E
A	L	I	A	S		I	M	P	E
Z	I	L	C	H		S	T	I	N
E	K	E		H	A	T	R	E	D
S	E	T			F	O	A	L	S
				B	L	I	N	K	
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## COMICS

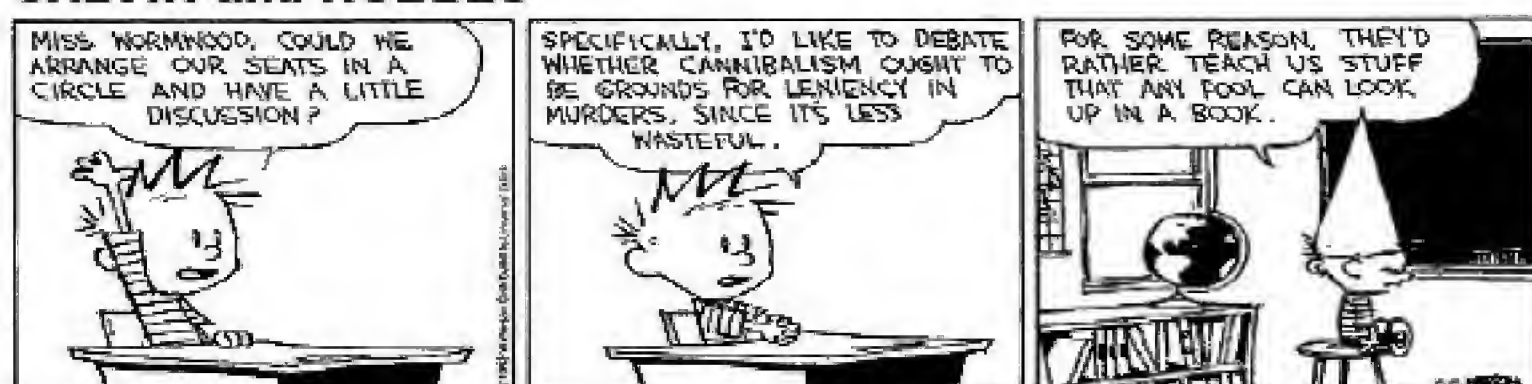
## PICKLES



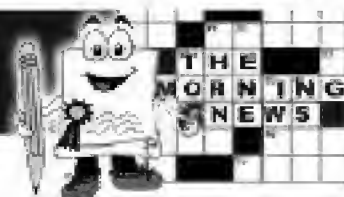
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## ACROSS

- 1 Double-decker transport  
4 Teapot openings  
10 Little brother, e.g.  
11 Disney's "Montana"  
12 Domesticated  
13 Make certain  
14 Aspiring actress  
16 \_\_\_ Lanka  
17 Head

## motion

- 18 Submissive  
19 Glen  
21 Pirate captain  
22 Trust  
23 Prolonged conflict  
24 Broad street (abbr.)  
25 Show about the Cartwrights  
29 "Grey's Anatomy" figure  
31 Christmas

## song

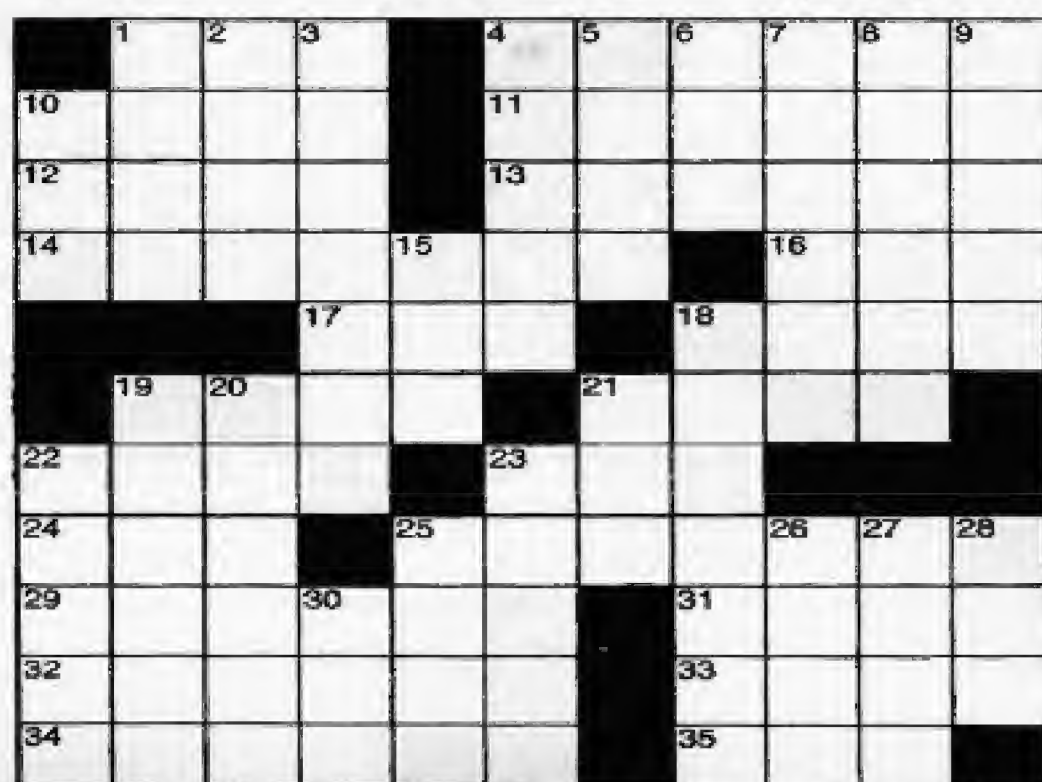
- 32 Storage sites  
33 Allergy sufferer's irritant  
34 Change one's chair  
35 Army insect

## DOWN

- 1 Overpower  
2 Sch. for officers  
3 Severely  
4 Started aside suddenly  
5 Breathe quickly

## 6 Switch positions

- 7 Fresh  
8 Surfaced a road  
9 1921 Valentino film, with "The"  
10 Two make a qt.  
15 Reaction to an IM joke  
18 Actress Richardson  
19 Direct one's effort to a cause  
20 Votes in  
21 Topeka's st.  
22 Speeder's downfall  
23 Most unsatisfactory  
25 \_\_\_ Raton, Florida  
26 "Thing" word  
27 Enthusiasm  
28 Height (abbr.)  
30 CEO's neckwear



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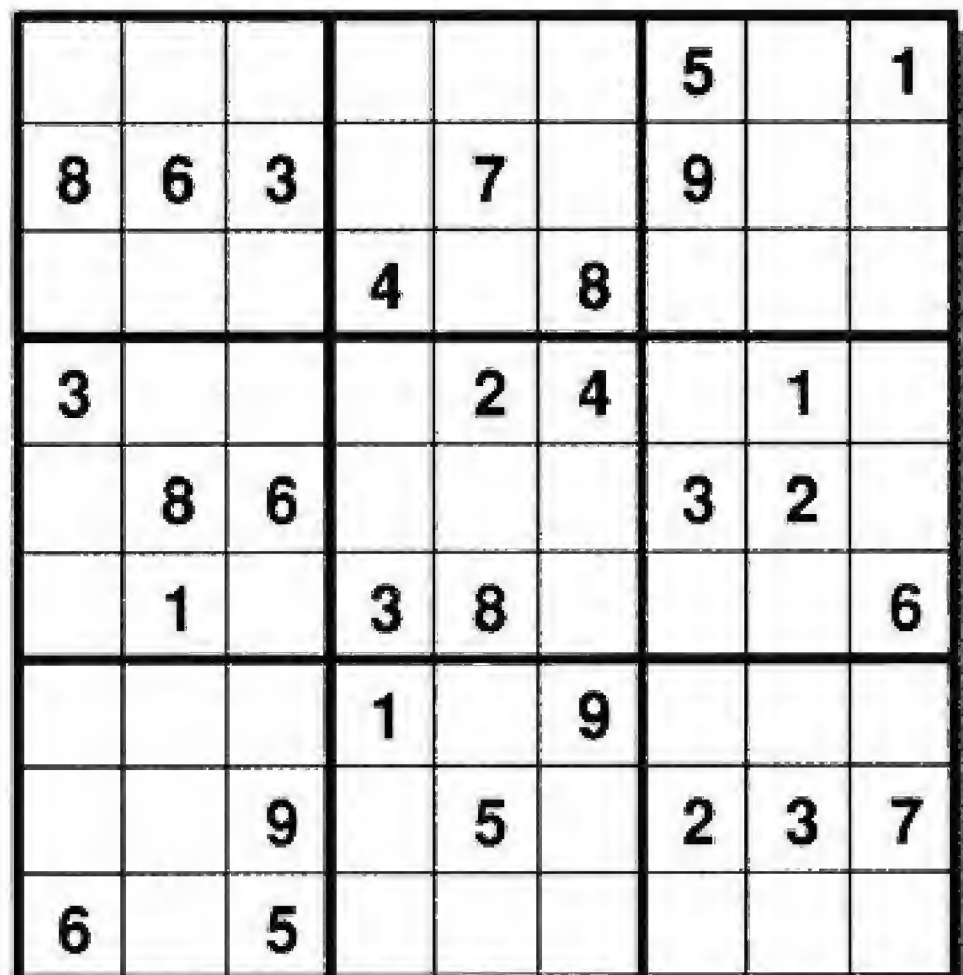
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## Al Anon Meetings

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Tel. 5673356 / 5838989

# Sudoku



## SOLUTION

8	6	3	5	7	9	1	2	4
1	2	4	9	8	6	3	7	5
9	5	7	1	2	3	4	6	8
3	8	6	4	5	2	1	9	7
2	1	9	3	6	7	8	5	4
6	1	8	7	9	4	5	3	2
5	9	2	8	1	3	6	4	7
7	4	1	6	3	5	2	8	9
4	3	5	2	9	7	8	1	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



**Delicious Breakfast**

-- A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and

sundry to their proud undertaking. 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2

eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, or All-you-can-eat pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on, after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

**5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904.** However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

**Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.**



## Football: Spurs win to ease pressure on Villas-Boas

PARIS (AFP) - Tottenham Hotspur won 2-0 against Tromsø in the bitter chill of Norway on Thursday to seal first place in Europa League Group K and ease a little of the pressure on manager Andre Villas-Boas.

Reports in England in recent days suggest that the Portuguese is hanging on to his job after last Sunday's 6-0 hammering by Manchester City in the Premier League, and another substandard performance on the trip north of the Arctic Circle would have done him few favours, even if Spurs were already through to the last 32 before this game.

Michael Dawson and Roberto Soldado were the only two players to keep their place in the team from the Manchester City debacle, and the much-changed Spurs side had to wait until the second half before finally breaking down a team who were recently relegated to the Norwegian second tier.

The opener on the artificial pitch at the Alfheim Stadion did not come until the 63rd minute, when Adnan Causevic turned the ball into his own net under pressure from Vlad Chiriches, and the London club doubled their advantage when Gylfi Sigurdsson set up Mousa Dembele to fire home from 12 yards with 14 minutes remaining.

Dembele struck the post soon after but the 2-0 scoreline was enough to maintain Tottenham's perfect record in Group K and boost confidence ahead of Sunday's Premier



League clash with Manchester United.

Meanwhile, Swansea City were unable to get the point that would have clinched their qualification from Group A as they lost 1-0 at home to already-qualified Valencia, Dani Parejo scoring the only goal of the game in the first half.

However, Swansea were left to rue an erroneous decision by the officials to disallow an Alvaro Vazquez effort before the break that would have brought the Welsh side back level.

Kuban Krasnodar beat St Gallen 4-0 earlier in the day, with the Paraguayan Lorenzo Melgarejo scoring twice, and the Russians could yet overhaul Swansea on the final day.

There was agony for England's other representative Wigan Athletic, who saw their chances of qualification taken out of their hands in a 2-1 home loss to Belgium's Zulte Waregem in Group D.

However, a total of 18 clubs have now qualified for the last 32, including Eintracht

Frankfurt, who secured top spot in Group F with a 1-0 victory at Bordeaux.

French side Olympique Lyonnais, who have endured a difficult start to the season, are through after recording a narrow 1-0 win at home to Spanish top-flight strugglers Real Betis with Bafetimbi Gomis coming off the bench to score the only goal of the Group I game in the second half at the Stade de Gerland.

Despite the defeat, Betis are also through, their superior head-to-head record against Vitoria Guimaraes - who drew 0-0 with Rijeka in Croatia - guaranteeing them at least second spot.

And Betis's local rivals Sevilla are certain to progress from Group H despite only managing a 1-1 home draw with Estoril in Spain.

Rubin Kazan of Russia, Genk of Belgium, Lazio, Anzhi Makhachkala, PAOK and AZ Alkmaar also secured their berths in the knockout stages on Thursday.

## Olympics: Rio signs off 2016 venue masterplan

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Rio Games Organisers said Thursday they and international Olympic federations have signed off a venue master plan.

In a statement, organisers said a two-day eighth IOC Project Review had concluded

with "significant progress" on readying the 2016 tournament, the first to be held in South America.

"We have enjoyed two very busy and productive days of meetings (and) benefitted from the International Olympic Committee's expert guidance and support," Rio 2016 President Carlos Nuzman said.

"Working hand-in-hand with our colleagues from the three levels (municipal, state and federal) of government, we have made important advances in our project. We are proud to have finalized the Venue Masterplan in record time, 1,000 days ahead of the Games.

"Hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Games is a hugely demanding project, with many challenges, but we are firmly

on track and working every day with great focus, energy and commitment to deliver unforgettable Games in 2016."

International Olympic Committee Sports Director Christophe Dubi said:

"Completion of the detailed venue master plan two-and-a-half years out is an excellent result. It compares favourably with previous editions of the Games, which saw adjustments later in the preparations."

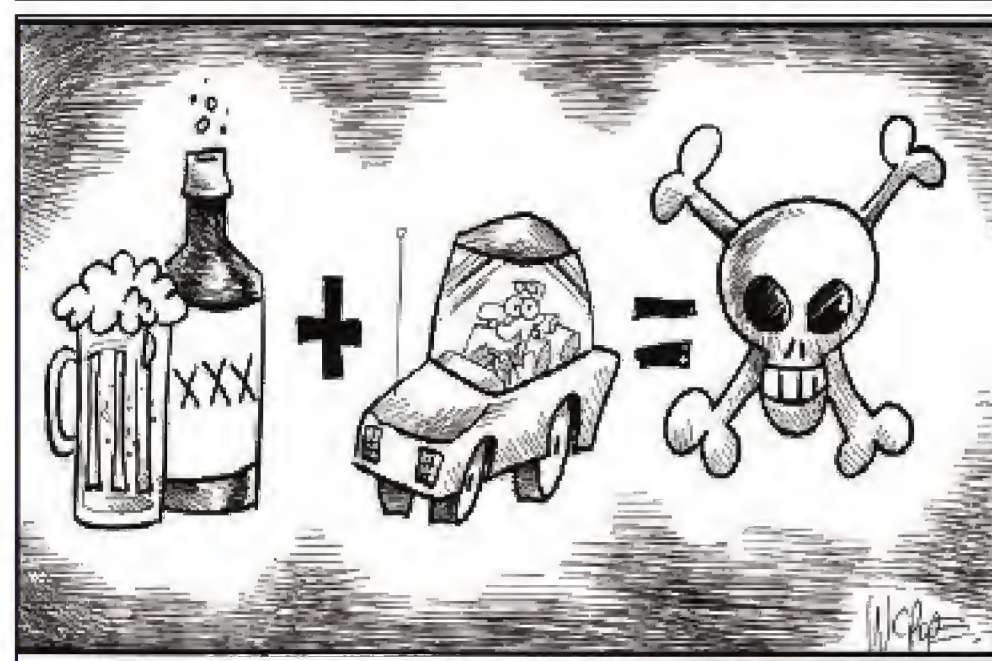
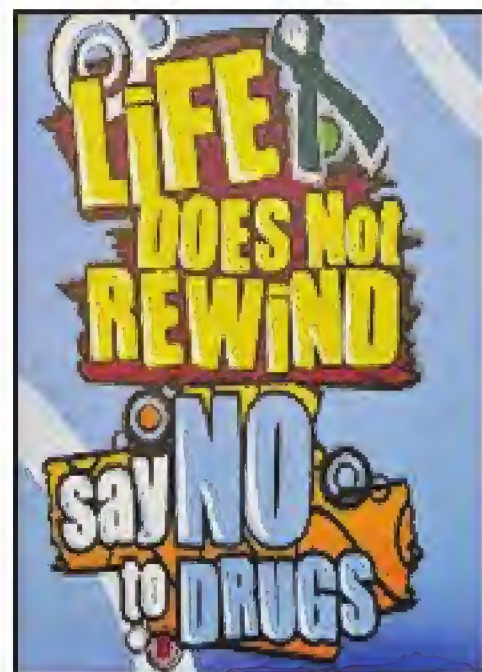
The meeting, also attended by Rio 2016 Coordination Commission Chair Nawal El Moutawakel and Brazilian Minister for Sport Aldo Rebelo, assessed key areas including accommodation, transport, sustainability, legacy, engagement and communications.



ARLINGTON (AFP) - DeMarco Murray #29 of the Dallas Cowboys scores a touchdown against Sio Moore #55 of the Oakland Raiders and Jason Hunter #93 of the Oakland Raiders during a Thanksgiving Day game at AT&T Stadium yesterday.



GENK (AFP) - Dynamo Kiev's midfielder Serhiy Sydorchuk (L) vies with Genk's forward Jelle Vossen (R) during the UEFA Europa League football match KRC Genk vs FC Dynamo Kyev at the Fenix Stadium in Genk on November 28, 2013.





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## NBA: Thunder sting Spurs to snap 11-game win streak

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - Kevin Durant scored 24 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder snapped San Antonio's 11-game NBA win streak with a 94-88 home victory Wednesday over the Spurs.

Spanish Olympian Serge Ibaka scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half to help the Thunder remain unbeaten on their home court this season.

The Thunder improved to 10-3 with their fifth win in a row and 7-0 at home this season, but Oklahoma City still trails Portland (13-2) by two games in the Northwest division.

The Spurs fell to 13-2, still 2.5 games atop second-place Houston in the Southwest division.



Thunder reserve Reggie Jackson matched a career high with 23 points on 10-of-14 shooting.

French guard Tony Parker led the Spurs with 16 points and seven assists, while Kawhi Leonard contributed 14 points, 10 rebounds and four steals in a losing cause.

San Antonio clung to a 52-51 lead early in the second half when the Thunder ran off eight points in a row, a spurt that

ended with a Durant slam dunk off a Russell Westbrook steal.

The Thunder stayed in front to the finish, although a 9-1 spurt by the Spurs pulled San Antonio within 79-76 on a Marco Belinelli jumper.

Oklahoma City scored seven of the next eight points, including a 3-point play by Durant and the Thunder went 6-of-6 at the free throw line in the final 80 seconds to seal the triumph.

HOUSTON (AFP) - Atlanta Hawks sharpshooter Kyle Korver, one game shy of matching the NBA's longest streak of games with a 3-point basket, had his bid for history put on hold Wednesday. The 32-year-old American suffered a rib contusion in Tuesday's game against Orlando, when he went 1-of-6 from 3-point range to stretch his streak of consecutive games with baskets from beyond the arc to 88. That put Korver one shy of the NBA record streak of 89 set by Dana Barros from 1994 to 1996. Korver, who began his streak November 4 of last year against the Oklahoma City Thunder, missed the Hawks' trip to Houston for a game Wednesday to have treatment, and it is not certain when he might return to the lineup. The streak would not end with a game missed due to injury, only if Korver plays in a game but does not sink a 3-pointer. The Hawks' next game is Friday at home against the Dallas Mavericks.



## NBA: LeBron rips former club as Heat win eighth in a row



CLEVELAND (AFP) - LeBron James scored 28 points, grabbed eight rebounds and passed out eight assists against his former club Wednesday to spark the Miami Heat over the host Cleveland Cavaliers 95-84.

James, the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player, guided the two-time defending NBA champions to their eighth victory in a row as well as Miami's eighth consecutive victory in matchups against the Cavaliers, the home-area club James played for until leaving for the Heat in 2010.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points for the Heat, and Michael Beasley scored 17 off the bench for Miami, which is 11-1 overall against Cleveland since James joined the Heat.

Dion Waters scored 24 points to lead the Cavaliers, who have lost four in a row and seven of their last eight. Kyrie Irving scored 16 points and Earl Clark netted 13 for Cleveland.

The Heat, who have not lost since falling to Boston on November 9, will visit Toronto on Today.

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## Tashaina Seraus marks historic bowling performance



ORANJESTAD - Aruban athletes continue to mark great successes in international tournaments. Recently, athlete in the sport of bowling, Tashaina Seraus was in the city of Sibiriyak in the capital of Krasnoyarsky, Siberia, Russia for the AMF World Bowling Cup. Aruba was represented by Tashaina Seraus and Laurence Wilming.

Both athletes performed excellently. Tashaina surprised everyone by winning 6th place out of 64 countries. She ended up being the best feminine bowler of the world. This is the first time in history that Aruba has achieved this much in an international championship.

This was a unique presentation by bowling athlete Tashaina Seraus. The Aruban bowling federation, ARBAS is extremely proud of their athlete Seraus' achievement.

Aruba and The Morning News are extremely proud of Tashaina and congratulate her for such a magnificent performance and for putting Aruba's name high on the map as far away as Russia! Good going, girl, keep it up!

Or local Foundation Lotto pa Deporte is proud to continue supporting our local athletes and local sports on Aruba. They are pleased to have again supported another successful sports presentation.



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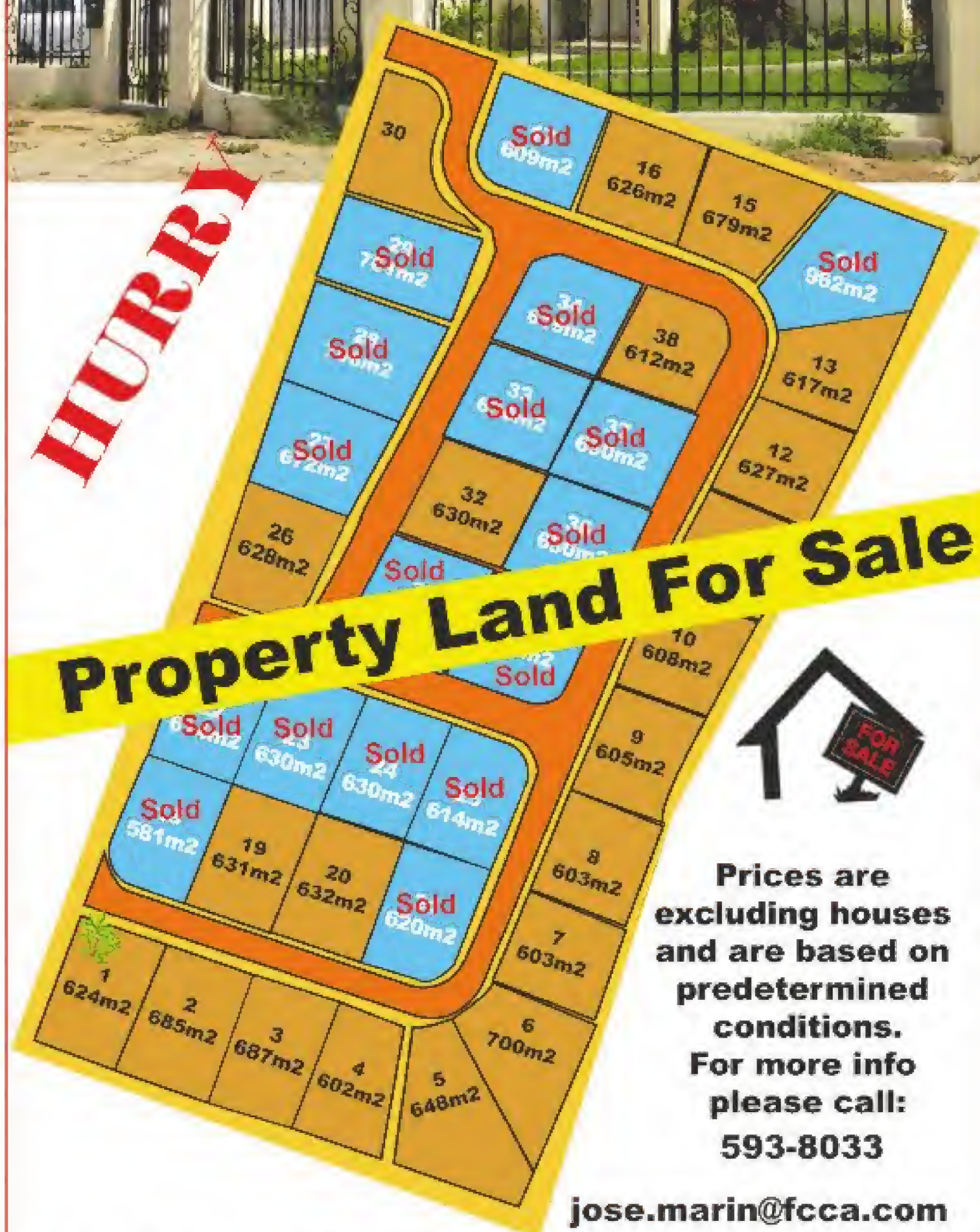
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### British kickboxer gets 25 years for US Marine murder

BANGKOK (AFP) - A Thai court sentenced a British kickboxer to 25 years in prison Thursday for the murder of a former US Marine following a bar fight on the island of Phuket. Lee Aldhouse's sentence was reduced from life imprisonment because he pleaded guilty to stabbing to death 23-year-old Dashawn Longfellow in 2010. The victim was in Thailand after sustaining a combat injury in Afghanistan. Aldhouse, known in Phuket by his ring name "The Pitbull", fled to his home country after the incident and become the first British suspect to be extradited to Thailand under a century-old treaty. Aldhouse fled to Britain after Longfellow was stabbed but was arrested upon arrival and detained for almost two years while he fought extradition to Thailand. He initially denied murder but later changed his plea. Under Thai murder laws, Aldhouse could have faced the death penalty.